

Remarks

Claims 1-20 were pending in this application. Claims 13 and 15-18 have been amended.

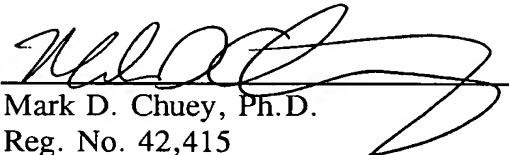
The Examiner objected to claims 13 and 15-18 as having informal errors. These informalities have been corrected by amendments made in this paper. These amendments do not affect the scope or meaning of the claims. The examiner objected to typographical errors in Figures 9 and 10 and to several references in the specification. These errors have been corrected as well. No new matter has been introduced through these corrections.

This application was originally filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) by Express Mail (label number EL503254453US) on November 7, 2001, while the postal system was still recovering from the tragedy this country experienced on September 11, 2001, and the subsequent anthrax attacks. On December 7, 2001, Applicants' agent requested delivery information from the United States Postal Service (USPS) and received notification that the USPS was unable to locate the original application sent to the USPTO. In order to ensure that this application was placed on file with the USPTO, Applicants refiled an accurate and complete copy of the original application on January 22, 2002. However, subsequent to the December 7, 2001 notification of the loss of the application sent by Express Mail, the USPTO received the application submitted on November 7, 2001. The original application, this application, was assigned Serial Number 10/039,365. The refiled application was assigned Serial Number 10/054,076. Applicants have filed an Express Abandonment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.138 concurrently with this paper to abandon the second-filed application (S.N. 054,076).

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Applicants believe all formal and substantive requirements for patentability have been met and that this case is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Applicants do not believe any fee is due by filing this paper. However, any additional fee due may be withdrawn from Deposit Account No. 02-3978 as provided in the Application Transmittal.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any matter related to this case.

Respectfully submitted,
RIAD GHABRA et al.

By 
Mark D. Chuey, Ph.D.
Reg. No. 42,415
Agent for Applicant

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BROOKS KUSHMAN P.C.
1000 Town Center, 22nd Floor
Southfield, MI 48075-1238
Phone: 248-358-4400
Fax: 248-358-3351

Attachment: Annotated Sheet Showing Changes